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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of

Masakazu HIGUMA et al.

Serial No.: 09/370,659

Filed: August 6, 1999

For: ENDOSCOPE CAPABLE OF BEING AUTOCLAVED

Date: March 21, 2001

Group Art Unit: 3739

Examiner: J. Mulcahy

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Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

RESPONSE

Sir:

Responsive to the Restriction Requirement (Paper No. 9) mailed February 22, 2001,
Applicants elect species A (Figures 1-10), without traverse. Claims 2-9, 13-15, 17, 18, 21 and
23-26 read on this species.

Applicants note that at least claim 23 is generic to species A-C. Applicants also note that
Messrs. Masakazu Higuma and Yasuyuki Futatsugi are co-inventors of species A.

Consideration and allowance of the application are earnestly solicited.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being
deposited with the United States Postal Service with
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Respectfully submitted,

Steven I. Weisburd

Name of applicant, assignee or
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Signature

March 21, 2001

Date of Signature

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